

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 18468 292002Z

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ACTION EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 /004 W

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P 291456Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8224

CONFIDENTIAL MOSCOW 18468

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FOR GARRISON FROM MATLOCK

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. ON YOUR QUESTION ON POSSIBLE INCREASED RESPONSIBILITY
FOR MARSHAL KUTAKHOV (STATE 300996) WE SEE NO INDICATION THAT
HE IS SHOULDERING OUT BATITSKIY AS CHIEF OF THE PVO AIR FORCES.
GEORGE KOLT'S IR 6-901-1178-75 REPORTED CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE
INDICATING THAT KUTAKHOV MAY BE MOVING UP IN THE RANK ORDER OF
DEPUTY MINISTERS; BUT KRASNAYA ZVEZDA AS RECENTLY AS
DECEMBER 28 STILL REFERS TO BATITSKIY AS "DEPUTY MINISTER
OF DEFENSE AND COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE AIR DEFENSE FORCES."
IT SEEMS UNLIKELY TO US THAT KUTAKHOV WOULD BE GIVEN SUPER-
VISORY POWERS OVER ANOTHER DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER WITHOUT
BEING MOVED UP TO FIRST DEPUTY RANK--AND WE HAVE SEEN NO
EVIDENCE THAT THIS HAS HAPPENED. IN ADDITION, WE WOULD REGARD
KUTAKHOV'S ACQUIRING CONTROL OF THE ROCKET FORCES IN PVO
AS A MAJOR SHAKEUP IN THE SOVIET COMMAND SYSTEM, AND AS
SUCH WOULD PROBABLY BE ACCCOMPANIED BY OTHER READILY
APPARENT EVIDENCE.

2. PLEASE LET HERBERT MARSHALL KNOW THAT WE HAVE BEEN
TRYING TO GET REPLY FROM SVIRIDOV, BUT UNION OF COMPOSERS
TELLS US HE IS ILL AT HIS DACHA AND IS INCOMMUNICADO
FOR MOMENT. (HE IS SAID TO HAVE MISSED HIS 60TH BIRTHDAY
CELEBRATION AT UNION LAST WEEK.) WE WILL CONTINUE TO
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TRY TO GET ANSWER.

3. RE STATE 298652, WE HAVE SENT SOME TALKING POINTS TO
AMBASSADOR ON THIS AND OTHER MATTERS CARE OF YOU IN
DECEMBER 27 POUCH. YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN READING AS
INDICATION OF OUR VIEW ON NUMBER OF CURRENT SUBJECTS.
MATLOCK

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